



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

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Recent News

The OEIG is pleased to announce the following changes to its staff:

- **Anthony-Ray Sepulveda** was promoted to Assistant Inspector General in the Regional Transportation Board division, effective January 25, 2016.
- **AIG Daniel Ostrovsky** transferred to the Regional Transportation Board division, effective February 1, 2016.

The Executive Ethics Commission released the following investigative reports, in addition to the two matters discussed below; all four are now on the OEIG website:

- ***In re: Hernandez, Gomez, and Flores (Case #11-00428)*** on January 15, 2016.
- ***In re: Tonya Loker (Case #12-01248)*** on January 15, 2016.

Board of Education Chair Failed to Disclose Potential Conflict of Interest



At the time the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) was considering whether local school districts should have more discretion over supplemental educational services, ISBE Chairman Gery Chico's wife, Sunny Chico, owned 90% of SPC Educational Solutions, a supplemental educational services company that billed Chicago Public Schools approximately \$1.26 million between January 2011 and April 2014.

Mr. Chico did not notify the Board of the potential conflict, according to the OEIG report, ***In re: Gery Chico (Case #12-02216)***.

The bylaws of the ISBE require Board members to "avoid circumstances that present conflicts of interest or even the appearance of impropriety." Four of the seven other board members said they would have wanted to know about Mr. Chico's wife's role as a provider of supplemental educational services.

Mr. Chico no longer serves on the ISBE. The OEIG recommended that the ISBE place a copy of its report in Mr. Chico's file, and the ISBE agreed to do so.

CSU President Violated Policy

In February 2013, for various reasons, CSU Board Chair Gary Rozier asked for President Wayne Watson's resignation. One week later, Mr. Watson sent a letter to the Board charging Rozier and Vice Chair Z. Scott with pressuring Watson to hire or promote their friends, relatives and associates.

The OEIG reviewed Mr. Watson's allegations and concluded that they were without merit. In his interview with the OEIG, Mr. Watson acknowledged that his claims were an "overstatement." The OEIG found that Mr. Watson selectively edited and mischaracterized information in support of his allegation.

With ***In re: Wayne Watson (Case #13-00436)***, the OEIG concluded that Mr. Watson's letter violated CSU policy that all employees act with integrity when representing the University.

The OEIG recommended that CSU take whatever action it deemed appropriate. CSU elected to take no action with respect to Mr. Watson.